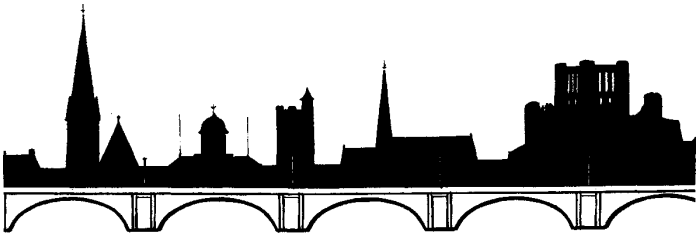
KELSO HERITAGE SOCIETY

PATRON: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE



Logo courtesy of A. Binnie

January 2022

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the January 2022 issue of our Newsletter. A Happy New Year!

The monthly newsletter will continue to be produced until the spring with articles of local historical interest, information updates etc. We would welcome your feedback. Contributions to the Newsletter are also welcomed.

Speaker Events 2022

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions in place at the time of the January Talk we had to cancel the event at Kelso Rugby Club but it was held remotely via zoom. The zoom talk was excellent and well attended. Edward Cawthorn who presented the talk was able to announce on the night that work had recommenced to put the restored bridge back in place and it is hoped that the crossing will be fully operational by June 2022.
Further information can be obtained from the website.
http://unionchainbridge.org/

Our next event will take place in Kelso Rugby Club (and via Zoom) on Monday 21st February when Graeme Watson will present -
Criminal Spirits- Smuggling in Kelso and the Borders.

Booking for this event is essential – Please email: info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk
We very much hope that we will be able to present the talk in the Rugby Club but are dependent on the Covid restrictions at the time.

Subscription fees

A reminder that subscription fees are due to be paid in early January 2022. The fees can be paid by BACS, Cheques (sent to the Treasurer) or in person at the Speaker event on 21st February 2022. For further information on how to pay please contact the Secretary on Tel. No. 01573 224 951.

The membership fees for Kelso Heritage Society are now £12.00 single and £20.00 joint membership.

Unveiling Ceremony for the Kelso Orchard Stone

Like so many events, the official opening of The Orchard has been delayed, due to the ongoing pandemic. We are now planning for a small opening ceremony to take place on Sunday 6th February 2022 at 2.30pm when His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe will unveil an amazing stone carving of the medieval Abbey's Norman Tower. The very talented local stone carver Mr Finn MaCallum, has done a tremendous job and the carving will be the centre piece of The Orchard. The Society would like to acknowledge grants from Creative Scotland and the Fallago Environment Fund and also a donation from Roxburghe Estates.
All members are invited to join us at the ceremony.

Appeal For Help from South East Scotland for the Macular Society

We received the following message in early January appealing for help in finding a speaker to take part in a conference call. Fortunately one of our Trustees, David Welsh, stepped in to fill the January slot.
If anyone is interested in helping out for future conference calls please contact me on **info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk**

My name is Iona and I am the Regional Manager for South East Scotland for the Macular Society. The Macular Society is a UK-wide charity supporting people with macular degeneration and other sight loss conditions. Our members tend to be elderly and have other medical problems but are amazingly resilient! We have Support Groups across the country and a group in Kelso and Galashiels. We normally meet monthly but all our face to face services are still suspended. However we have replaced them with Telephone Support Groups so that we can keep in touch until we can meet again. We all dial into the same number and can talk together. The Kelso and Galashiels Group have been meeting together on a phone call.

I just wondered whether someone from the Kelso Heritage Society might be able to join our Kelso and Galashiels Macular Support Group conference call and talk to us about a local topic of interest and share any stories/past times from the area as this is something that would be of great interest to the group members who live locally.

When the Flying Scotsman came to Kelso!!!!!



The recent storms which caused tremendous damage to woodlands in the area have brought back memories and stories of the time in 1948 when the 'Flying Scotsman came to Kelso'. Needless to say it didn't stop at the station.

The following extract was taken from a website piece by Alan Young entitled A Brief History of the Tweedmouth - Kelso - St Boswells line.

From 16 August the line through Kelso was passable and Edinburgh-Kings Cross services, such as *Flying Scotsman*, could be diverted by this route. The 7.50pm departure from Edinburgh was the first diverted service. The south-facing junction at Tweedmouth enabled these expresses to run without reversal, and some even managed non-stop journeys between the capitals, despite the additional 15¾ miles to be covered; on no fewer than 23 occasions the *Flying Scotsman* was able to undertake its almost 409-mile, non-stop run between London and Edinburgh. So it was that for about ten weeks the Kelso line carried the diverted main line trains until the main line infrastructure was repaired.

Further information on the disused railways of the Borders can be found on the website – www.disused-stations.org

Online

***National Museum of Scotland** ** https://www.nms.ac.uk/
Various exhibitions to view
National Library of Scotland – Map Library https://maps.nls.uk/
Well worth a visit!!

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed
Email info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk
Tel. 07766 781 555
Deadline for February issue 14th February 2022